



Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* CANGO L.95cm



Common, widespread, overbearing goose introduced from North America in 1665; acts as if it owns the place. Found abundantly in parks, ponds, farmland and wetlands, even estuaries. Sociable and very noisy, makes its discordant, slurred, two-syllable "ah-HONK!" at any opportunity; in flight, in disputes, in greeting. Constantly bickers, with head-down shouting matches or splashing into water. Yellow-green goslings often gathered into crèches. Grazes on grass, also swims on the water, even up-ends. Groups frequently simply loaf on grass doing nothing at all. Has no fear of people.

ID: Large goose with long neck, flies in imperious, almost swan-like manner. Easily recognised with black neck and white face patch - "cut itself shaving bandage". Crown and bill black, scaly brown pattern to plumage. Variant individuals with white foreheads, poorly defined white patches, or with white faces are regular. Juv has dusky face patch, browner neck. Overall scruffier with dingy smaller rounded flank feathers. A very few vagrant individuals of smaller races/species e.g. Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsoni* occur each year in flocks of Canada geese.

For general queries, contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu



Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* BARGO L.64cm



Chiefly a localised winter visitor (Oct-Mar) to western Scotland and Ireland, where flocks feed on agricultural fields and roost on salt-marshes. Birds wintering in the western isles (e.g. Islay) and Ireland are from the Greenland breeding population, while those in the Solway come from Svalbard. Russian birds appear as irregular visitors to eastern and southern England. In recent years, though, has gained ground in the English hinterland as feral birds have established self-sustaining populations, occurring in lakes and in parks in CANGO. Very sociable, forming

large flocks that make a sound like yapping dogs. Flocks form uneven lines, like those of BREGO, and typically fly higher than both BREGO and CANGO. ID: Much smaller and shorter-necked than CANGO, with larger amount of white (often creamy) on face, including above eye. Zebra-striped upperparts. Some CANGO show similar face pattern. Small black bill. Ad: Black on neck reaches down to lower breast, and black bands on wings show against grey background. Juv: Diffuse upperpart markings lacking bold white tips, otherwise similar to adult.



Great Tit *Parus major* GRETI L 14cm

5.25 million pairs

Superabundant bird of woods, gardens, shrubbery, hedgerows etc. Occurs in all types of trees, including pure coniferous stands. Has a tendency to feed by trunks and larger branches, and forages on the ground frequently. However, also acrobatic like other tits, and feeds in canopy foliage, hanging upside down etc. Unable to resist hanging feeders and bird tables, and is usually one of the first visitors. May be found in roaming flocks of birds in autumn, winter and, especially in late summer, when juveniles form same-age gatherings.

Cheerful chiming song, a much varying repetition of two notes "TEEcher, TEEcher", can be heard everywhere from late December until May. Makes "pink-pink" and huge variety of other calls. ID: largest tit, size of CHAFF, and only one with white outer tail feathers. Longer tail than e.g. BLUTL. Distinctive plumage with yellow breast split by black stripe; head with black cap, bold white cheek. Ad ♂ has broader breast stripe, especially obvious between legs; ♀ paler yellow breast, less yellow cheeks, sooty black head and tail.



Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* BLUTI L 12cm

5.25 million pairs

W 15 million

One of Britain's commonest birds, found in woodland, gardens, shrubbery etc, but usually absent from conifer plantations. Very perky, inquisitive, fearless and downright aggressive species, holds its own at garden feeders, even against much larger GRETI. Strong legs confer acrobatic ability, so feeds high up in canopy, even among thinnest twigs; will come to ground too. Uses garden feeders and competes with GRETI for nestboxes. Parents feed large broods (average 10+) for two weeks, making 1000 calls a day carrying caterpillars. Sociable,

often in parties, incl with other tits. Complex songs include silver trills on one note; lots of calls, including drawn-out scold. ID: brightly coloured small bird, with brilliant yellow breast with very narrow, not very neat black stripe down belly. Stunning cobalt-blue cap above mainly white face, with narrow black eye-stripe and throat – quite distinct from GRETI. Short blue tail. Sexes alike. Juv has wash of yellow on head instead of white, and cap greyish-green. Frothy calls of begging juvs is one of sounds of mid-summer.

